I do not have a set time, no. If I do anything I do it as consistently as possible on Friday and that has not worked really well and, like I said, I just, a lot of it is just thing did not work.

How about. How long have you been using the service. When did you first start it.

September of 93.

Have you been consistent over time or it has changed?

Mine has been consistent.

Very consistent.

I do a lot of communicating as far as one on one, sending messages back. Parents put their homework sheet. We use something called the Monday folder o everything goes home on Monday and once I get all the notes back on Tuesday or Wednesday. So, rather than writing a note to return to that parent, a lot of times I will just send a message on that voice message, if they have the system. I do not put that, generally, rather than take the time to write them a note. I know of my ---- comes in and she and I communicate that way all the time.

Do you use it seeking to increase some?

It is to increase some. I think that I was having trouble getting my messages put on the machine. figuring out how to work the system and ...

My biggest problem is getting them off. I can get them on but I do not know how the get them off.

I still get my kid sheet out. I still get my little pamphlet out to know what I should do.

do you struggle to get some thing done.

It is for me; I do not know why. I have voice message at home where I can do anything but for some reason I have to get that little thing that says voice messaging.

 I know that this definitely be with me every time I need it. I have voice messaging at home as well and my numbers are really very similar and I go, wait a minute, is that home, or is this other number. The dialing retrieval number, 956. So, I really have to stop and think which way is which.

I do not know why, but I have trouble getting my messages off. I still get my little sheet out. Part of it I think is not clear. I cannot remember what the word E is.

We have to listen to the whole message first or you have to know how to fast forward through it. Everything else, when you delete, press seven. For this to delete, press two. It would be so much easier if it were the same for everything. To delete a message on your list you have to press a different number.

Speed it up.

the wording does not say exactly the same as to how you have get into it. I cannot remember the wording.

I had trouble just at the beginning; much of it was understanding what they were telling me.

 I think that, we as teachers, we speak educational needs. Our vocabulary is a little bit different and this was not written in educational needs or to what we might be accustomed to doing in a school situation. Once we went past that everything was easier.

I am glad you are saying that because, when I looked at it the first time and started to do this between this and E Mail and the computers and the telephones and all these ... it was just overwhelming for me. I do not understand this at all. It was much to do in one year.

I have a masters degree, that is the impression you get.

You know it is different to have voice mail at home.

Can you give me some examples of what kind of things are awkward in there?

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO PRESS TWO OR SEVEN INSTEAD OF PRESSING TWO AND SEVEN.

So IT HAS TO BE CONSISTENT. WHAT ELSE? Is it the terminology?

We are reading the broadcasting list and, to me, I do not know, it took me a while to be able to do that and it was like trial in there and removing messages from this and only mail box. I do not why, but if I do not have exactly

I will tell specifically my problem. See here, where it says, entry your mail box. I did not have a lot of problem with this because I have voice mail at home and I was really excited and I was really aggressive and I wanted to learn that off but I will tell you that for the first month of school every night I would get a call from a teacher or another staff member who could not figure it. I have two lines on my phone and I would say, hold on, I would conference two lines together and we would go step by step by step. You needed someone to sit down with you, one on one for an hour or a half an hour or fifteen minutes for the first month or something similar.

They need to be told, where it says entry your mail box, you need to go back up to hear and you need to go through this whole thing in your mail box. Nobody ever told me, when you call from school you have to do something different.

If you were to adhere to this listing, where it says answer your mail box, you have to go and do all this. Entry your mail box, you have to this first and then you can go down and do this.

The other thing was, as I said, I didn't know, when I call from school, that I was not going to get the same thing I get when I call from home. That throws a lot of people off. When you hear voice, she is her secretary, you press star and you can go right regular. When you hear talking, press star because you know you are not in the right system. People would be right at home and press star and it was not working.

would not answer the phone. she has a different phone in a different system.

We did have training for one, I guess it was 40 minutes. There were four or five people there and the man did a fine job telling us how to do it but we still did not do how to do it. His presentation was fine and we thought, okay, that makes sense. We all went back and said, okay, what do we do again. It still was not doing it and it was not clear. He met with us individually or two. So the one teacher who did not pick it up and said, I tried it and I still cannot get through this. She said, now, you have to go to my room; I will show you how to do it on the school phone e. Well, as you are saying, you go home and it is a different thing. It took me a while to feel comfortable enough to give it a try. I sat at home by 9:30 saying, okay, are you going to try this again. It is nice when you are home and if you make mistakes it is not a problem. It is scary to try it if you are not getting through the first or the second time; it gets frustrating. Then you would say, I better write them a note.

I was doing it and punching away and, of course, it would not work and I would be yell and scream and still it did not work. I would try again and would end up complaining.

What would you change? I hear you saying that it needs to be made consistent with voice messaging. make it consistent as far as delete; make it up two or seven to be the same.

You know, delete is always seven.

Do training; one on one training.

We have finally sat down to find out how to put a message. This is how to erase a message and it was there. this is how to input.

1 I think it would make a difference.

Like a recipe. In fact, did something like that.

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did you sit and re-wrote it yourselves?

Did you write that over?>

I know that the person who wrote this probably understood but, like you are saying, enter your mail box and then you have to go and reply your messages and you go to send a message you have to put it down here, enter your mail box again. so, instead of having it ... or refer back to one. It would probably be easier if you had four or five different slips and saying, enter your mail box.

So, it could be sequential because I am planning to do something a lot easier.

It is okay, this is the reason for this feedback.

Yes, it could be a little bigger sheet but, I mean, if you can read one call to relay message and then, from the very first pick up, we will see.

I think it is an educational thing as well. I think, as a teacher, I am used to a certain vocabulary and, once again, I think this is not written quite to my understanding.

So, it sounds like most of you struggled at first.

Also, I had a problem with messages versus greetings. Think about how you get an answering at home and you say, hi, it is _____, I cannot get to the phone. That is what I thought we were doing and we were not. We are putting a message which is different from a greeting and, again, we have a teacher who, in February finally figured it out. She finally said to me, I cannot get this message erase, how do I get it erased? It was not a message; it was a greeting and it was from october and she had never changed it. It was a greeting and I thought it was not good. You do not put a greeting in either mail box.

So, how to change the greeting.

I did not know that either. I thought the greeting was what I was going to play out. I tried that also.

I thought that the greeting was then followed by whatever message and that is not the case at all.

Yes, you have the greeting where you say, leave me a message. I did not realize we had two.

That was when I was at home punching in and ...

So, everybody was struggling with it at the beginning and then, we learned it.

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I think once we get started, once you get going with it, that does not sink quite so bad. The benefits you are getting from it come from going up and running.

What are the benefits?

I think just that parent communication we mentio9ned. If you are communicating with parents that makes your job easier and it benefits the children as well as the parents. That communication is vital.

I really think that the parents can say, I did not know about it. It is there and all you have to do is pick up the telephone and listen. The students cannot say, she never told us, it is right there. It also keeps me organized too; in the sense that I have to put everything on once a week. so, I have to have myself very well planned out with whatever I am going to do during the week. If not, my --- she goes ahead and, I had never thought of that, she puts it into the machine. I will say to them, I am sorry, but we have to change the plans on my voice mail. It does say that you are going to have a test but you are not ready for it so we will wait until next week. They will say, what happen to work-sheet number 25? I will say, well, we are not there yet.

So, after we have gotten through some of this thing; you should start picking up on it; you start using it more than you did at first. The reasons for having the usage starting to increase are?

I like the fact that you can use it at any time. You are not going to waste time because, tech technically, as teachers, we are so geared in to get things accomplished at school that, in many occasions you hate to take that time right after school, at least I do, to sit and call a parent and then get tight up and then you need to go home and if there is something you need to communicate I can do it at 10:30 or 11:30 at night. I do not need to wake them up and still leave that message.

Parents call; I have parents who will call and leave me a message at 10:00 at night or they will think of something and they feel more c comfortable sending me a message later in the evening because they do not want to check their messages before school starts. I like it when a parent leaves me a message; some times, if they have a question or they want to know something that gives me a little bit of time extra. They will leave me a message and they say, oh, I can take care of that.

Another advantage is that, one of two ladies was talking about leaving messages to parents. I get really frustrated on people who do not have voice messaging because then I have to talk to them. It is not that I do not want to talk to parents. last night, a mother called me with a question that took a minute to answer, yes, your son has made up all his work and his average is at 80. 45 minutes later I am hearing about how glad she is that he broke up with his girl friend and on and on. How can her son get this class for the next year and I did not have 45 minutes to sit and listen to her go on and on. I would check my list and I was actually recording her message and was trying to send it and I was not able to do that. I was really, really frustrated because instead of taking one minute to tell her what happened I get to sit 45 minutes of my family time. Fine, I do not call parents as often or as quickly if they do not have voice messaging. I do not tell my principal that.

To be really honest, that is not a good idea.

that is an issue; I have one parent who is the same. I mean, she is wonderful but she is the same way; you never-converse with this lady for less than 45 minutes or better. It does not matter whether she has an issue to discuss or not. I mean, she is just a wonderful lady but she does like to talk. So, it is nice if I can leave her a message or something to which I can respond and I can do it on a voice message and talk to her later when I have the time to do so.

It seems like it is an efficient way to communicate. You can choose when you want to communicate and it also encourages you to communicate more if you are not going to worry about being blunt.

Before, and I hear that once you started using it, you started to have some of these difficulties. Before, at the beginning, when you first heard about this, what was your initial reaction, how did you initially feel about this?

I was excited about it but it was because I already had the voice message at home. It was really for me.

I was not excited. I was very apprehensive because I was not sure what this connection into their home and mine meant. Would I have my time, meaning my personal time as a parent, as a mother or a wife; or would I be totally connected with their families? I was not sure how that was going to work.

I have a lot of very intense parents, very concerned parents and I agree with you; communication is the best line, it helps everyone but I was not sure where that was going to leave me.

also the fear of getting into it for fear of what I would find. It kept me a little hesitant.

So, Why did you even try it. Why did you not say,
I did say that. I decided that, well, I did have a time where I checked my messages and the mother had a question and it was at that time when I felt that question needed to be answered and did not have the time to do it so I left a message. The communication was really affective. That made me feel more comfortable about it.

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You get to a point where some time you have to establish your own identity and your own family values and your own life. I really felt that I did not want that to be taken away by this house to house communication. I did not want an angry parent or a happy parent or whoever to call me on Friday at 4:00 and wanted a response. I did not think that was fare. That has not happened but I was concerned about that.

The others seem to be very interested in this.

You know. I think it is a great idea. I did not have any problems with it.

That was not the general feeling at our school. Everybody was like, one more thing? One more thing? We did not have an option. this was a requirement and we will get messages in our mail voices saying, please, up-date your voice mail. The parents got to the point where they would get upset if your voice mail was not up-dated by Monday at 4:00.

 It was a little bit stressful but it got your into that routine and the big picture is that it was a great idea. I was not really happy at the time but the parents really do like it and the parents were the ones who showed up really quick by getting messages. In fact, I was one of the ones who got messages like crazy. Again, it was because I have not gotten to a telephone to put it on and it was like in the first week, two or three weeks, I had not up=dated my message. I think this was also a sign from the parents saying, hey, we are going to use this so, please, make sure you use it too.

The school had a policy requiring you to use it?

No, our principal did not require for us to use it. She would have liked it for us to use it.

 I was of the impression that she was using it because there were a lot of benefits; the teachers who were using it were happy using it. I think it was more of a positive feedback from other teachers which c used me to try it and find out that it was okay. As I said, I was really apprehensive at the beginning and I was glad she did not force me because there were a lot of other things we were handling and the school is only two years old and this is my first year there. I really felt overwhelmed because everything. I think she read that and I think the principal understood the circumstances and since there is

such good communication between the parents and the teachers, anyhow, they always had the school being very involved. so it was not that we would not b be able to communicate with them on Monday. newsletters, everything was going out and it was not that they were not getting communication and feedback. I felt that she was letting it up to us. She thought it was a great program and they did a great service for us. In that respect she wanted it promoted. I did not feel forced to use it.

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There was one time when we did get messages and a note on mail box to up-date.

You see, because I was not, I did not get anything ...

That was only one time and that was because she was presenting into the board.

When I first started using it, of course, I had sweaty fingers and sweaty palms. I had a parent send me a message back and say, I liked your message, you did a nice job, no, you do not sound silly. I think it just took a couple of encouraging words from parents for me to feel more comfortable with it.

Do you agree with that?

 I agree with that. It is nice when you get one of those nice messages; I think we are all bound to like good input. There were a couple of times when I had a parent respond right away and say, gee, thanks. That is all they say. that was a nice message, thanks. Those wonderful pad on the back.

So, you saw some of the teacher be a little apprehensive to this. There was some resentment to getting pushed into it with yet other things to do.

In the service break you have to realize that I think you would see the same apprehensiveness you saw being given to computers. They were told, this is now hooked up and all communications are going to be done by computer. I can see many of our teachers go, ah!

That is part of who we are with being a new school high technologically speaking and, and I are both brand new to this school this year. So, we are dealing, although we had a computer in the past, you are now networked and you have that. We now have Tv's, it took me for ever to figure out those. I had to learn the blue monsters, the videos, go through the library. It is wonderful but you are learning the TV, the telephone, US WEST the computer ... I felt like I was an out of space worker for a few weeks. there was a lot to learn at once.

So, you did not grade here. What was your grade over all for this service.

I gave it a B. over all.

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I gave it a B+.

I gave it a B.

B minus.

Why did you grade this a B. as an average but why?

 I think it is a good program. I do think that the there are things that need to be fixed. the simplicity of getting your messages on and off. One of the things that I would really .like to see is some kind of a system where you would know there was a message on there. There is no indicator when you pick up the phone. On of the things, even with your own phone in the room ...

You do not have your own number; unless you have your own number I do not think it would even work. If you had your own number it would be different.

Still, we need an indicator.

I even, personally, I mean, going from an answering machine to US WEST voice message, I love it. I am still bothered .

If I am busy doing something I do not think to pick up the phone right away and check it. I try to get into a habit; but, you know, it is nice to have something that is more visual.

 I was just telling them out there that this is all personal. We obtained this great system and I gave this number to my husband and said, look, you do not have to leave me a message, just call this number and I will know you did call me. Well, he has used it three times. Two times I did not listen to it; I was supposed to be at dinner at 5:340 and I showed up 5:40 ten minutes to six. The next time, we were having people come over for dinner that he had invited; I did not check my message.

You just forgot? Or you got busy?

Well, there are only two lines. I did not get to it and I figured, if there is anyth9ing the matter of life and death, you know it can wait until tomorrow morning. consequently, he does not use my voice mail.

My husband has only used my twice and those were two days when I got this and I did not check it.

1 Now, he calls direct and leaves a message to get back to him.

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Is there a reason for the B. grades, right?

5 6 I was B. plus over all. I am really pleased with it. I do not think it is necessarily perfect but I am really pleased.

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Why not and A.

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I think that getting started, up and running, a lot of the hardware issues. I have access to one that is not quite as bad as you have. Those are inconveniences and those make it difficult.

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You are talking about the problems with getting the message out and those types of things.

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21 22 I gave it a B. After I finally got into it I though, oh, this is not so bad and it is really nice to get to call the parents and it is nice to leave a message when you are in a hurry and the ones that the children can also hear. I felt comfortable with that. I did not feel comfortable enough to give them and A. because it took me so long to get into it and I do not know whether it is the frustration of the instructions or it is just my own, I am not sure what I want to do.

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Nancy gave it and A.

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I gave it and A. minus and the only reason that it did not get just a plane old A. was the training thing. I cannot tell you how many hours I spent working at getting other people ready to use the That was okay; I mean, that was not a major problem for me. the other thing is, when you have messages that are returned; I do not know if you have returned messages when you send it to your list and somebody is not on voice mail any more. No six, phone numbers, such and such and such and such, message was returned on such and such a day, on such and such a time. You have to listen to the whole message where you can go right through it but if you have six people who have cancelled their voice mail, you are sitting on the phone for ten minuets waiting to hear all the people who did not get your message because they are not on voice messaging any more. You do not care, just you have to take them off your list. I wished there was a way that US WEST and all their wonderful technology could automatically delete that from my list when they get deleted from voice messaging. I have six lists for different classes so I have to think some of them you do not get a name, you get a phone number. Oh my gush, whose phone number is that, is that a seventh or and eighth grader. you have to find the child. By looking at the number I have to find the child and figure out what class they are attending , on what list they are and then go to that list and delete it. That was my main problem when people got out of voice messaging. I guess the moral of the story is, do not get off voice messaging. You know, when they

would get off voice messaging I would get ...

You do not like to having to cancelling yourself, you would like to have it automatic.

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Yes, would that not be great?

You like to listen to it and if sounds like that was cancelled ...

Some times they leave a message that is 60 seconds long or 90 seconds long and if I have six people who do not have voice messaging any more, a minute for each of those people. You are talking six minutes. You can press 3-3 and go to the very end of the message and I do that but it still is, when I do it I have 90 seconds. I have three children under my feet and working full time, my husband is working full time and I have a million things going on; I do not have time to listen. Then, to sit down and figure out who it was in order to take off from which list. I have six lists so that makes it really different.

I send a message to the parents and they no longer have voice messaging then US WEST technically send you a return to sender and says, here is your message back, they will tell you a phone number.

Oh, I see. So you have a whole recording from them and a whole recording from the next one.

That was another one; teacher would call saying, I am trying to get in and it is not letting me do anything. I keep getting this thing saying node six. I have to say, just keep listening to it, press seven and you will be right. I wished there was a way.

You did not know, the first time you got that, you did not know what was going on. It is really goofy if you want to add or delete someone you do the same thing. If they are already on the list and you put their phone number it gets delete.

Yes, but it does not say how to do it.

that is the only reason they did that.

So what do you do at that point. Is it what you expected. Did you expect it to be like that. Was it different from what you expected?

I really did not have any expectations.

Were you surprised about it?

I use it more than I ever thought it possible. I would have never, never, unless we went on this trip to San Diego, I had no way of getting in touch with the parents; I had no way of letting the parents know. The only thing was, give everybody my home phone number and say, call my husband. I did, 84 children one of whom had a medical

condition. I needed to keep her mother up-dated on what was going on and I did. I ran into problems and I call my husband and said, start making phone calls, we are going to be two hours late. That was last year. This year I did not have to do this.

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so, it made your husband happy, ah?

I would have never thought the system had that capability. do I worry about children cheating an extra credit any more. Not a bit. They call me up, they tell me the answers, they get it right and they get them honest. Some of them say, I forgot to call you last night, I am sorry. Also trying to see what time these children are making these calls. you know, 10:37 I have been in bed for an hour and they are calling me to tell me it is a fool moon.

That is a very good subject to be different. If someone calls me on my social studies to give me a report on ...

 Well, not a report, but if you want some specific fact. Let us say you wanted to say, what did the dollar do on the Tokyo market today. did it go up or down; they could call you and give you the answer they find out. I do not know but whatever it is that kind of things make it useful. I never ambition the system doing anything like that.

You thought about doing that before?

No. It is interesting. We now may go home and try it.

I think it is workable for a lot of things. See, I encourage the children to use the system.

If you have something the share with them all; I never heard anybody use it that way.

Nor have I and I have not thought of the system primarily as a system between teacher and parent. I have not thought of it and if I can use it to teach my students, all the better.

I think if it had been presented with that also, that idea, not just communication between parents and teachers, I would have looked at it without that fear of being just a link with the parents.

I tell the children, I encourage them. I do not have a great book. My book is on the computer, thank goodness. I will tell the children, if you need a computer print out you need to leave me a message on my voice mail. Every now and then I would check my voice mail and I will get two or three messages saying someone needs a print out and I sit down and do it. The next morning the have it.

I use it for the children more than for the parents.

I think I would still want to keep it more as a parent; I think that occasionally, they should ask permission from mother and daddy to call

information. Call in and get a question. it is like an adventure,

I always thought of giving a letter a day or a clue a day and then

giving up pizza at the end to get then used to using it. I am getting

that could be a part of their homework; to call it and get that

Can you use it with second graders?

or do it with the parent of kind of keep it.

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Even for me, if they use it. they attempt to pick up their messages; the students do, specially when they are absent. The students probably use it more than the parents do to pick up their home

assignments.

treasure hunting.

them used to do it any way.

have you tried something like this before regarding the applications.

You and both have E Mail so that is how you communicate between teachers. So, for the other three of you, we already talked about this a little bit. Any teacher to teacher?

does it. I have not used it in that; I have not had any need to do it. If have had the need it was probably with one teacher and I usually just take the minute to jot the note and leave it for that person.

I use it to put the schedule in and sank, third grade do a math on this fourth grade do this and so forth.

You send a confirmation so you know they received it. You know they are not going to put in a pile and lose it. It is going to be right there and you are going to say. HI teachers, this is to take out your calendars and I need you to write some stuff down for the graduation. You can say we are graduating on this and that day and then we will go to Disney Land so there will be no teacher who did not know the messages.

That has been one of my problems because I have not thought of that. That was the situation when we had a field trip. I wrote notes to every single teacher and put it in their boxes. I probably could have picked the phone just as easily but I have not thought that far. could not probably get to a telephone.

If you do not have the list to do it you have to sit down and establish the list but that is the only problem.

I am sitting here thinking there are about two or three teachers right now who I can call and leave a messages for them tonight instead of seeing them tomorrow.

1 2

How did you communicate before PTX?

Newsletters, notes, phone calls.

did you really get stock into these calls?

I will have my children running into our building, oops, sorry,.

It is not that you do not want to talk to them; it is just that they think you are the only ... You have this knowledge of their child that they want you to share. That is understandable; but they would go on and on because they have not had enough of what you need to tell me.

 You do your best to convey and do your best to help their families. It is not that you do not want to deal with the parents but it has to be done at a time when it is the right time. If you think about 25 children in your class and you have 25 sets of parents who want to talk to you. It is just impossible.

 It is also the time-frame. Your time after school you really want to use for accomplishing things you need to be done. The next day, or for the week, if you are doing weekly plans or whatever. Then you get caught in that trap, well, I wait and I call when I get home. Whereas, a parent yourself, f you get home, you need to make dinner, you need to do this. In your routine at home you hit a point, is it too late to call, can I call or yet, you do not want to call them because their children are still up and you do not want to interfere with their process of getting fed and you get to the point of thinking it is too late. So the fact that you c an use at any time is a great asset

 Before we had, if a parent wanted to get in touch with me, I did not get the message, I have already left, I had a meeting or something, they want to talk bout it right then and there or they wanted to make a comment about right then and there. The next day, they are standing at the door, well, I left you a message and I could not get a hold of you. I think it makes it easier for them because they can say what they want to say and they can talk for three minutes and they do. They feel better.

Can this replace the communication with parents?

No. it cannot.

What needs to be directed?

You still need to be able to talk to their parents when there is a real problem. We are talking right now about communicating...

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I would never leave a negative communication on their phone. Because you do not if the children could pick it up.

A lot of them have the access number and you still need to talk to the parent. There are some situations which I would not even think to discuss on the phone with the parents.

You can call and say, good job, because you knew that.

The frustrating part is there are not a lot of our students, I do not know, about a third, who do not have voice mail so those are the only ones with whom you can do that.

That is a really good public relations tools; because you are getting nice messages to the parents.

I think we touched on one thing that I think it is important. I think as far as the over all school announcements; I think it is great. I know at our school it is working very well. We are not just talking to teacher. We are also talking school material; if your child is sick at three in the morning you do not have wait until 7:30 to call in. The secretary will not have break downs because of answering the phone five times in a row. they are able to do their job and accomplish more.

I see this also being very useful as far as the over all school as much or in some cases primary grades more so than just looking at us individually as teachers. So, at least that is my opinion.

I agree with that.

So, it has been a general announcement tool?

That is the only disadvantage. When you call, you have to go through all those messages and get to the final one and say okay, this is the one.

Well, I always, when Mr. starts talking, I press my number eight and I ----.

You can do that; as soon as you hear Mr. you press 1337101 and you get me. Just, as soon as he starts talking you can press my box, can we do that.

Is there any way to resolve that besides just telling them?

I think education is the key.

Just the education; I think with the older children it does not take them too long to learn the system. They are probably better at this than we are. I am talking about middle school, junior heights age children. I think they are probably better off than we are.

I have never heard of any problems saying, I have not heard a student come in and say, Mrs. today is Monday at two O'clock and you do not have your message on it. I would say, my break is not yet; give me ten minutes. We are talking at 3:30.

so, they really keep track. We already talked about this. The grade we gave it for the ease of use.

C. plus.

16 B.

18 B.

Α.

If you would have asked me this initially ...

It is the same thing with me. I am the one who did that because, as I said.

I think it is friendly if you can feel comfortable calling and saying, I do not understand this, explain this to me. He would take the time and explained it to me. It made a big difference. That is why I think it is so easy to use because I had someone sit down with me and train me. We all know, when you teach it you learn better, do you not. so, when you sit down with someone else and teach it how to use it you become the expert and you learn it better and that is case with me.

You gave it lower grade because of the time you took learning it and you gave it a higher grade because you could use it.

Any other changes or improvements other than the ones we covered in order to make it easier to use?

How about training material. Have we discussed that?

Training materials or training? You asked us both.

Let us start with training.

I would give a B. for training.

I take some of the responsibility of learning at the beginning. I imagine it is my responsibility with that. The training was there; I just did not do it right.

I gave it a C. plus. but listening to you say that I should probably have ... I was probably one that felt like, gee, I can bother to go there again. I admit it, I struggled through it as opposed to, I probably should have

bothered more often. Again, I am a visual person so for him to say, okay, you need to do this and this and that; I do not know. Give me the telephone and the buttons, I need that.

I gave it a C. plus. It took me a while and I had the training. I guess I was not good at it. It is someone else's fault. I thought he could have been more training. He did come twice and I needed another time.

What did he do?

 The first time we met with our great level and there were four of us. Then we had some other teachers in there who are special teachers who had time off at that time. We probably had six to seven teachers in there and, he gave a nice presentation, used the telephone, showed us how to do it; we, who brave enough, those who were brave enough, worked the telephone and practiced. It is surprising, out of the four of us, those two who did try it still have not used it. I felt we needed more one on one and actual use and a whole row of telephones. Not just one telephone for six of us because we watched other people do it and it was not the same thing as doing it yourself. I can watch you do that but I really do not know how you are doing it because I do not really understand what you are doing.

I do not always appreciate it well, It is easier to relate to it if you are doing it yourself.

 There was another training time where he came in and the other ---teacher and I went into a small office where we were both in view of
the telephone and able to watch what each were doing. That seemed to
help much better and I felt more comfortable after that one. I think
that type of training with someone like this would be helpful.

nancy does a great job of teacher teaching the teacher; if you train ten of us or seven of us and we go in and train the other ones it would be just fine.

 I think that first time too actually having my first message that I wanted to put out there; I am leaving a message and I have to write it down and I had really thought it through and say, this is what and then sat down and actually done the first message and to know that it could go ...

Everything after the initial training going back to my room and sitting for an hour after school, playing with this thing and still not coming back exactly the way I thought and re-reading and the frustration of going to someone else and saying, what in the world am I doing wrong here.

If you were told that person had been trained to do help you would have been more likely to do that.

I think you need to have a period of training here and those will train a couple there and so forth. It has to be one on one; you can learn it unless it is done that way.

You have to have that phone and actually do it over and over on your own because you sit there and you look t the screen and say, okay, and they model like a --- is being done. Well, that was not mine. So you have to transfer that information to your own.

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We should be able to put the message and you were able to hear and then you had a decision of changing the message but you do not know how it really sounds until you are home in the room with just the machine. Since there is no one else there to help you are bound and determined to do it. so, you will figure how to work with it. I think it would have been nice to have another teacher sitting with you after the training because it would have been really comfortable to have them do that.

I know I am the one to always say, I am going to come over and, would you help me and she said, yes. Well, I did not have the time; you say, okay, I am coming. She is way on the other room I did never get there to have her show me that to me.

What did you give as a grade.

I gave and A. for training because I did not have any problem. I cannot tell you why. I said, we had our training sessions and I knew immediately what to do. I did not know how to do it but I sat home and figured it was me. I played with the numbers until I figured it out.

I took it upon myself to do it. What was wrong was that I was not understanding. There was also one difference. When I was there, I was the one who was pressing the numbers. I was the model. I do not know that it had anything to do with it or not because I did it at home a few hours later.

The training part was not a problem and I really thought it was me; I just sat at home and fiddle around until I got it and I still fiddle around. So, that is what I think. the training was not the problem, I put the blame on myself and I finally figured it out so I said, okay I was the only dummy who did not know how to do this.

1 I gave it an A. minus because, frankly I got frustrated with getting 2 calls every night. Not that I mind it doing it but after a while I 3 started saying, enough already. I had teacher calling to say that 4 they could not get a message on or off. I am getting this node six, 5 what does that mean. How do I make a distribution list. Everything. 6 I am a parent as well as a teacher and I would come home from school 7 and pick up my phone and say, you have seven new messages. Well, four 8 of them would be from the same teacher who forgot to say something and 9 thought she could go on and delete it after she had sent it out to 10 her distribution list. she could not so I had to call her and say; 11 you know, I hate to be the one to tell you this, but once you send it 12 you cannot get it back and ... she would send a message saying, 13 today's assignment for such and such subject is, and the grade is; 14 thank you, good bye. The next message would say, today's assignment 15 is such and such, which is slightly different from the first one. 16 thought she had deleted it; you could not pull back from other people 17 to whom you sent it. It was a little frustrating for me. I have to 18 tell you; my big thing was, I would call and, this is an answering 19 machine, right?> Hi, thanks for calling, this is Mrs. --. You sent 20 it to their home. They did not call you. so they are picking up 21 22 listening to

their messages and it says, hi, thanks for calling. They did not call; you called them. You see what I am saying? It took me a long while to get into the routine of just saying hi, it is Mrs. from and here is the information you need to know; a long time. It took me a while to realize that I need to put my name on that.

I would call and just say, hI parents.and go on and everything.

Or say, this is the week of ... It took my a while.

Nowhere did anyone say or mentioned to me that was going out to people and, you know, a parent finally said something, oh, that was you was it not?

I did not think about that originally. She always do your best to sound perky and refreshing.

That is why I always write it down because I listen to mine and there is something ----. I hope I am using proper English; am I using proper English?

You record it perfectly and you hit the star key and you erase everything and you to start all over again.

Any suggestions at all regarding training?

The training materials were great. I put a B. plus because I use the same as you can see.

I have used this and I gave a B. plus because most of it is there.

I need a flow chart something visual. do you want to change your message, yes, no, go this way. do you want to listen to your messages, yes, no.

Some of it was confusing and I do not know the terminology; for some reason. When you are removing messages, whatever it tells you number four is does not sound anything like removing a message. It says, administrative options. It is not something to verify receipt of a message or something like that you press four. Then you have to go into your specific box and your own box and not ...

so, it is not consistent.

What if, I cannot remember but, the terminology on the button pressing four gives you no clue that there it where you would go to remove messages. That is why I have these little notes.

partially the terminology used.

I heard earlier that you get some feedback and you get some from the parents ... How do you get that feedback. do they leave you a message back?

Mine just reply or else they just send a separate message.

I do not think I have gotten a message on my voice mail. You would not know if they sent it in response to what you said.

I do not send any out so I have not gotten anything saying, hey, good job.

You are putting out a whole work for the week on Monday and it is just for them to get it if they want to get it. What percentage would you guess are calling in to get information?

I could not give you a percentage.

Would it not be nice to get those numbers. I have no idea because I have no idea who call. The only way I know is if they tell me the next day. I do have maybe, I could give you this; just off the top of my head, maybe two students a week say something about their homework they got from the machine. that is the way I know they are listening to it but there is no way I could give you a number.

the type of feedback you are getting is what? Positive ...

If they have voice messaging.

I am not sure ...

is there any difference in reaction between the parents who have voice messaging versus those who do not.

those who have it respond more often to me. If you call in to retrieve my message, as a parent, if I would have called into my mail box I have to press two, I think it is, to leave me a message. If I get it sent to my home and I want to respond would have to press eight or something like that. again, there is an inconsistency to reply to a message. You should, to me, you should always have to press the same thing whether you get it in your home or in school. if you press the same thing. The other thing is, if I am getting a message and it will say, if you would like to erase this message press seven and if you want to respond press eight. Well, I will press eight and it says you have pressed and incorrect key. You just told me you could press eight. It probably means I do not know for sure but it probably means that they do not have voice messaging; that is what I assume. I do not know if that is true or not but if I say, okay, I am going to tell this student, good job and you

you were to say something else. You looked like you were at a

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flow charts; and extra copies so that you can keep them by the phone. maybe like a spiral binder things that is laminated each page is laminated and you can just hook right up there and when you want to do something you just look at it.

any other changes to the training materials?

Even that would be nice and you can just look through it and you can say, okay, this whole page is to remove a message and this is how you would do it. You put on a message and this is how you do it. Maybe with little tabs.

I still like the idea of a flow chart. One column, I like your idea. this is to leave a message, to remove a message, to use and listen only mail box.

I like your idea. this is to leave a message, to remove a message to use your only mail box. Just going o.

I like the concept because I would hang up in between steps and now that I am more comfortable I go back and forth. I knew that if this is what I was doing and I did it and I got to hang up I said, oh, now I can do the next one.

Feedback from parents. You have feedback from students?

I encourage my students to call at all time.

You know, I want to bring lemonade tomorrow, I keep forgetting; would someone please leave me a message on my voice mail reminding me to bring the lemonade. They do. would you please let me know. forgetting this, I want to remember this and I know when I am at home I need to pick it up when I forget and someone please leave me a voice mail and they do. The children do. There are two or three children who remind me of everything.

Then, other times, like last night. I have to have some grades at home that I kept forgetting to bring so a little boy called me and said, I do not need to bug you but you ask me to remind you to bring those grade so I remember.

That opens lines of communication between me and the children. the children called me and said, do not make a big deal out of this but I really want to go and see the --- tomorrow. That was great because a read the --- and I said, this person wants to see you and he came in and said, I would like to see, you know, like it was his idea

Tape Transcription

Yes, I have not.

and that person got to go to the concert and that was all low key; no one saw me in the little corner talking to this lady and it worked really well.

1 2

So you handle confidential things.

Yes, I told the students it is my private mail box and no one is listening to it but me; they have no way of figuring the code.

We talked earlier about the kind of obstacles and the reactions from other teachers about this. Their feelings about it now. How do they react now.

I agree with what said. I think we have a mixed feeling; I think we have those who really use it and really like it. You still have those who feel like is just one more thing to do and they are not using it.

Have they tried it?

Very little.

They refuse?

I think it is the same thing. they are doing it but probably not using it as much as they could.

There are some teachers who used to use twice a day and I go home and hear, hi, this is Mrs. so and so. Delete, I am not going to listen to it. I think it just depends on the teacher and, again, I would come up to the idea that if they have a computer sitting in front of them and they were computer literate they would have a hard time using it.

the same thing; you still get those who are eager to try things; those things that are resistant to changes.

 Eventually it will come, as anything else. I mean, our district put computers on our desks like four years ago. I mean, we had the same thing; when you started you had, and we did a pyramid. We started we ten teachers at each school who have one and they in turn helped train them. There were, initially people who, you know, I am not using this, I am afraid of it and all that. I think you see more and more people using them constantly now.

 The reaction I see ... I do not see them as scared of them any more. It' is not a big deal to get a phone line. The deal is that more and more teachers see the positive that comes out of it; they are more likely to try it. I tell you, when I had that success with that extra credit, I told everyone who I could ---. You would not believe what happened last night; I had 25 children and I know those children did

it. I do not have to worry about them tapping into somebody else. then I heard, you know, that is a good idea; maybe I should try it.

Today I was sitting talking ... You know, it is fun to brain-storm ways in which, I think it would benefit schools. Not just your own school. Within your own school, but also ideas of what you get even a newsletter type thing that would throw out maybe some little ideas of ways to do it.

, why did you fast forward to teacher who sent you a message.

Because she tells me if the children read a page of a book. today they read page 97. they read 92. But she is almost ghat bad. She would leave me the same message every single day. Okay, for sixth grade now, they are still working on their stories. do not forget it has to be typed by Friday. Good god If you told me that on Monday you do not need to tell me that on Tuesday and the rest of the days. I am an adult and I can remember.

In fact, I took that hint from one of my parents. she sits with a calendar and when I leave my message she writes it in her calendar for what we are to do everyday. I have two children who go to school and both of their teachers use voice mail and my son has four different teachers two of whom send home messages and two of whom do not. will write, your book report is due Friday; I know then, or Wednesday I would say, your book report is due on Friday because then, on it is on my personal calendar. Yes, I want her to be responsible and she is a responsible child. Likewise, I also want to be a good parent and let her know I am not let her slide. Same thing with my sixth grader. You know, how --- human body will coming along 'well, it is coming along it is, can I see it, can I take a look at it. I am just curious how you are doing. Three pages and it is supposed to be 50 or whatever. I will sit down; I got this from a parent who did it with my messages and I write it on my calendar.

maybe I am over potty trained or something.

How about US WEST personnel. What do you think of the service provided by them?

Very good job. A. plus.

Anyone who can come into an elementary school and not run out screaming from being with a group of teachers has to be good. I was very impressed with them. He was very articulate, was able to , like I said, at least I could communicate with him.

I really thought he did a good job of it; and then, there was a lady who was sent also. There were two of them and both were very good.

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e had and a woman back in September and then a new lady who had just started recently I had to tell you that I always felt really comfortable just picking up the phone and saying, I have a problem, here is what it is. He had a voice mail box on my system at school and then made all the difference in the world. I was not calling into his office; he knew that he needed to check that on a regular basis and I could leave him a message and he would get back to me and he was really good doing that.

He also left us messages. Is everything okay? now, here is your new list. I do not want your box.

Why can they not put just an editorial comment on your list.

Would you like it if they did?

I thought that was good and I did call him a couple of occasions; like I said, it was probably just my ego. It is like, why am I not getting this.

One of the teachers in your school to whom you could go and ask questions.

How about in the future? What type of involvement would you like to see from US WEST?

more hands on. When they start to do the instruction; if they find a message

or bring us into a place like this; it is already prepared. Not necessarily this room; but this is good for us all.

I think it needs to be grouped.

If there is someone who understands it is a lot easier for that person to help me and if I know I can help you. We can group.

 if I can remember correctly, and correct me if I am wrong. We did it during school time, during our break time and that can be really good timing. Maybe it was not long enough; maybe we needed to have a service after school and you knew you were going to be there for an hour or an hour and a half or whatever instead of doing it on your break time when you signed out and know that, okay, I only have 20 minutes to do this. Then you have to go back to class and I think it might help. it was done during school time, if I can remember correctly and it was at a break time and being a teacher that break time, no matter if you have one or two you do not have enough time to get everything done that you need.

Well, it was early in the year when you are doing everything anyway. I need this time.